

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A fireplace grate comprising a frame including a plurality of non-moveable grate members and a plurality of non-moveable cross members, said grate members and said cross members defining a platform and a compartment disposed below the platform, said grate members having first portions lying in a first plane to form the platform and second portions extending below the platform to form the compartment, the first portions of the grate members extending less than the entire length of the frame such that the platform has an opening that provides access to the compartment, the frame further comprising a supporting member extending along the compartment, the compartment operative to hold substantially horizontally a firelog and to prevent direct contact between the firelog and ~~a wood or ceramic logs placed~~ log held substantially horizontally on top of the platform.
2. (Previously Presented) The fireplace grate of claim 1, wherein the frame includes a base defining a cavity, the frame further including a cage member positioned on the base to further enclose the compartment.
3. (Previously Presented) The fireplace grate of claim 2, wherein the cage member is hinged to the base.
4. (Currently Amended) The fireplace grate of claim 2, wherein the base is formed by the plurality of non-moveable grate members connected by the plurality of non-moveable cross members, and wherein the non-moveable grate members ~~including~~ include a U-shaped portion for supporting the firelog.
5. (Currently Amended) The fireplace grate of claim 2, wherein the base is formed by the plurality of non-moveable grate members connected by the plurality of non-moveable cross members, and wherein the non-moveable grate members ~~including~~ include a V-shaped portion for supporting the firelog.
6. (Previously Presented) The fireplace grate of claim 1, wherein the firelog is a gel log.
7. (Previously Presented) The fireplace grate of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of compartments defined by the frame for holding a plurality of firelogs.

8. (Previously Presented) The fireplace grate of claim 3, further comprising a removable handle for moving the hinged cage member.

9. (Previously Presented) The fireplace grate of claim 2, wherein the cage member includes a hinged door.

10. (Previously Presented) The fireplace grate of claim 1, wherein the platform includes at least four non-moveable grate members of the frame.

11. (Currently Amended) A fireplace grate comprising a frame including a plurality of non-moveable grate members and a plurality of non-moveable cross members linked to the grate members, each grate member having ~~a first portion~~ first portions extending in a first substantially horizontal plane ~~to define a platform~~ and a shaped portion extending deviating below the first substantially horizontal plane via a gap between the first portions, the non-moveable cross members and the grate members defining ~~to define a platform~~ and a compartment disposed below the platform, the compartment accessible via the gaps in the first portions that define the platform, and further comprising a supporting member extending across the compartment, the compartment operative to hold a starter material in a second substantially horizontal plane and to prevent direct contact between the starter material and a wood ~~or ceramic logs~~ log placed on top of the platform and held on the first substantially horizontal plane.

12. (Previously Presented) A fireplace grate, said fireplace grate comprising:

a base formed by a plurality of non-moveable grate members, a plurality of non-moveable cross members, and a supporting member, the grate members having a first portion extending in a first plane and a shaped portion extending below the first plane, the grate members connected by the cross members to define a platform and a compartment disposed below the platform, the supporting member extending along the bottom of the compartment, said base for supporting a firelog in the compartment and a log on the platform;

at least one pivot arm; and

at least one ceramic log pivotally attached to the base by the at least one pivot arm, wherein the at least one ceramic log pivots between a first and second position, wherein the first position permits the insertion of the firelog into the compartment of the base, and wherein the

second position further encloses the compartment and prevents direct contact between the firelog and wood or ceramic logs placed on the platform of the base.

13. (Previously Presented) A fireplace grate, said fireplace grate comprising:

a base formed by a plurality of non-moveable grate members, a plurality of non-moveable cross members, and a supporting member, the grate members having a first portion extending in a first plane and a shaped portion extending below the first plane, the grate members connected by the cross members to define a platform and a compartment disposed below the platform, the supporting member extending along the bottom of the compartment, said base for supporting a firelog in the compartment and a log on the platform; and

at least one ceramic log hinged to the base, wherein the at least one ceramic log hinges between a first and second position, wherein the first position permits the insertion of the firelog into the compartment of the base, and wherein the second position further encloses the compartment and prevents direct contact between the firelog and wood or ceramic logs placed on the platform of the base.

14. - 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The fireplace grate of claim 1 wherein at least two of the non-moveable cross members are positioned on the platform proximate ~~an~~ the opening in the platform to the compartment.

19 (Currently Amended) A fireplace grate comprising:

a base including

a first plurality of non-moveable grate members spaced ~~in a parallel relation~~ apart from each other, each grate member having ~~a first portion extending~~

first portions that extend in a first substantially horizontal plane and that are separated by a gap, and

a shaped portion ~~extending that deviates~~ below the first substantially horizontal plane at the gap between the first portions to links the first portions,

a first plurality of non-moveable cross members linking the first plurality of non-moveable grate members, and

a supporting member linking the shaped portion of the first plurality of non-moveable grate members,

wherein the base forms a platform for supporting a log on the first substantially horizontal plane and a cavity depending from the platform for supporting a firelog or starter material in a second substantially horizontal plane, the cavity accessible through the first substantially horizontal plane via the gaps between the first portions of the first plurality of non-moveable grate members.

20. (Currently Amended) The fireplace grate of claim 19 wherein the fireplace grate further includes

a cage member including

a second plurality of non-moveable grate members spaced in a parallel relation,
and

a second plurality of non-moveable cross members linking the second plurality of non-moveable grate members,

wherein the cage member encloses the cavity to form a substantially enclosed compartment that separates the logs log from the firelog or starter material.

21. (Cancel)

22. (Previously Presented) The fireplace grate of claim 19 further comprising:

a ceramic log connected to the base, wherein the ceramic log moves between a first position and a second position, wherein the first position permits insertion of the firelog or the starter material into the cavity, and wherein the second position substantially encloses the cavity and prevents contact between the firelog and wood or ceramic logs placed on top of the platform.

23. (Previously Presented) The fireplace grate of claim 19 wherein the shaped portion of the grate members is U-shaped or V-shaped.

24. (Previously Presented) The fireplace grate of claim 11 wherein the shaped portion of the grate members is U-shaped or V-shaped.

25. (Previously Presented) The fireplace grate of claim 12 wherein the shaped portion of the grate members is U-shaped or V-shaped.

26. (Currently Amended) A fireplace grate comprising:

a plurality of grate members, each grate member having

~~a first portion~~ first portions extending in a first plane and

a second portion extending from the first portions, the second portion deviating below the first plane at a gap between the first portions which forms an opening in the first plane; and

a plurality of cross members linking the plurality of grate members to form a platform and a cavity disposed below the platform, the opening in each of the plurality of grate members aligned to provide access to the cavity through the first plane, wherein the platform is operative to hold a wood log in a first substantially horizontal plane and the cavity is operative to hold a firelog in a second substantially horizontal plane.

27. (New) The fireplace grate of claim 18 wherein at least one the cross members extends along the interior of the cavity.